

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 IO-14 DRC-01 /105 W

----- 107520

R 311759Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO AMEMBASSY LOME

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6992

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 3684

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, TO

SUBJECT: DELAY IN FOURTH EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

REF: LOME 1118

1. SUMMARY: WHETHER THE FOURTH FED WILL BE IN OPERATION IN EARLY 1975 MAY WELL DEPEND ON WHETHER THAT FUND IS FINANCED, AS IN THE PAST, BY MEMBER STATE BUDGETARY CONTRIBUTIONS OR, AS NOW PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION, FROM THE RESOURCES OF THE COMMUNITY GENERATED FROM CUSTOMS DUTIES, LEVIES. SHOULD THE FORMER BE THE CASE, SAOME DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUND MAY OCCUR. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MISSION BELIEVES IT IS TOO EARLY TO ACCURATELY PREDICT WHETHER THE FOURTH EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND WILL BE IN OPERATON ON FEBRUARY 1, 1975, FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF THE THIRD FED. THE FOURTH FED, INCLUDING ITS SIZE, FORM AND ADMINISTRATION, IS A STILL OUTSTANDING ISSUE IN THE CURRENT EC-ACP NEGOTIATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, OUR SOURCES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE NEGO-
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TIATING TABLE STILL THINK THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE

CONCLUDED BY NOVEMBER 1974.

3. A SPECIAL FACTOR IN THE POSSIBLE DELAY OF THE FOURTH FED WILL BE THE FORM IN WHICH IT IS FINANCED. THE EC COMMISSION HAS PROPOSED THAT THE NEW FUND BE FINANCED FROM THE RESOURCES OF THE COMMUNITY GENERATED FROM CUSTOMS DUTIES, LEVIES, ETC. THE PRESENT THIRD FUND, AND PREVIOUS FUNDS, HAVE BEEN FINANCED BY APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE EC MEMBER STATE NATIONAL BUDGETS. THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL IS AIMED AT AVOIDING THE NEED FOR PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL OF MEMBER STATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND. IN THE PAST, WAITING ON PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL HAS LED TO LENGTHY DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTATION. THE FATE OF THIS COMMISSION PROPOSAL HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED.

4. FED OFFICIALS ARE MAKING NO COMMITMENTS FOR FUNDING PROJECTS UNDER THE FOURTH FUND. FROM OUR CONVERSATIONS, HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT IN CONSIDERING PROJECTS UNDER THE FOURTH FED, HIGH PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO COMPLETING PROJECTS STARTED BUT NOT COMPLETED UNDER THE THIRD FED AND TO NEW PROPOSALS WITH OBVIOUS LINKS TO PAST FED PROJECTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ECBRU03684
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740138-0842
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974054/aaaaadcb.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LOME 1118
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <13 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DELAY IN FOURTH EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND
TAGS: EAID, AORG, EFIN, TO, EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND
To: LOME
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005